

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0632
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 07257

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, ELAB
SUBJ: EC SOCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL, JUNE 28: RESULTS

1. THE EC COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTERS, MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG JUNE 28, APPROVED TWO DIRECTIVES, ONE ON THE EDUCATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS' CHILDREN AND THE OTHER ON SAFETY SIGNS AT WORK.
2. THE PURPOSE OF THE EDUCATION DIRECTIVE IS TO MAKE SCHOOLS MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF PUPILS FROM MIGRANT FAMILIES. ITS MOST IMPORTANT PROVISION IS TO REQUIRE TEACHING OF HOST COUNTRY LANGUAGE COURSES ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN SPEAKING ONLY THEIR MOTHER TONGUE. HOWEVER, THE DIRECTIVE IS MANDATORY ONLY FOR NATIONALS OF ANOTHER MEMBER STATE, NOT FOR THE ESTIMATED ONE MILLION CHILDREN OF MIGRANT WORKERS COMING FROM OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY.
3. THE OTHER DIRECTIVE IS AIMED AT STANDARDIZING SAFETY SIGNS AT FACTORIES, OFFICES, AND OTHER WORK PLACES IN THE COMMUNITY. THE UNIFORM SIGNS DESIGNATED IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DIRECTIVE'S ANNEX DO NOT APPLY TO SOME FIELDS OF WORK, INCLUDING COAL MINES, AND ESTABLISHMENTS HANDLING DANGEROUS PRODUCTS.

4. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED BUT DID NOT TAKE FINAL DECISIONS ON TWO OTHER SUBJECTS:

A. EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE. THE EC COMMISSION HAD PROPOSED THE COUNCIL APPROVE EC FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE INSTITUTE, A RESEARCH BODY TO BE RUN BY THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC). WHILE RECONFIRMING ITS INTEREST IN SUCH AN INSTITUTE, THE COUNCIL WITHHELD A FORMAL DECISION PENDING CLARIFICATION OF "CERTAIN ASPECTS" (WHICH AN ETUC SOURCE SAID INCLUDED THE ROLE OF NON-ETUC UNIONS SUCH AS FRANCE'S CGT).

B. EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND. IN CONSIDERING THE COMMISSION'S 32-PAGE PROPOSAL ON REVISING THE FUND'S RULES, THE COUNCIL SPENT A LONG TIME DEBATING HOW THE TRAINING FUND SHOULD BE ALLOCATED BETWEEN ECONOMIC SECTOR PROJECTS (REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL IN EACH CASE) AND REGIONAL PROJECTS (WHICH THE COMMISSION CAN APPROVE ITSELF). THE COUNCIL REACHED A TENTATIVE DECISION ON CONTROVERSIAL POINTS, WHICH IN EFFECT, ACCORDING TO ONE PARTICIPANT, MAINTAINS THE STATUS QUO, BUT DELEGATED TO COREPER THE JOB OF REDRAFTING THE APPROPRIATE RULES, WHICH WILL BE REVIEWED AT A FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING.

5. THE COUNCIL ALSO HEARD A PRESENTATION FROM EC COMMISSIONER VREDELING DESCRIBING THE EC COMMISSION'S WORK PRIORITIES IN THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS AREA. "REESTABLISHMENT OF FULL EMPLOYMENT" TOPPED THE LIST OF FIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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SUBJECTS, FOLLOWED BY:

--HUMANIZATION OF WORK, INCLUDING ON-JOB SAFETY, HEALTH, AND HYGIENE

--REDUCTION OF INEQUALITIES BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

--IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

--BROADER PARTICIPATION BY WORKERS IN DECISION-MAKING, BOTH IN PRIVATE COMPANIES AND IN THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

THE TEXT OF VREDELING'S REMARKS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT SOCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL MEETING.HINTON

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